

the Courthouse Journal

WWW.WACOUNTIES.ORG

Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties

January 28, 2005
Issue No. 4

*Inside the
Courthouse Journal*

Budget, Finance & Taxes
Pages 3 - 5

Courts, Public Safety, Law
& Justice
Pages 6 - 8

Elections, Licensing
& Recording
Pages 9 - 10

Environment, Land Use &
Resources
Page 10

Public Health & Human
Services
Page 11

Boards & Commissions
Page 12

Courthouse Ramblings
Page 12

Training & Upcoming
Events
Pages 13 - 14

Calendar of Events
Pages 15 - 16

**Medicolegal
Training**

See Page 13

County Treasurers Meet in Olympia for Legislative Conference - Treasurers' Bills Heard and Another is Scheduled

Seventeen county treasurers, state officials and WACO staff met in Olympia Monday and Tuesday for their annual legislative conference and visits with legislators. As luck would have it, the Treasurers'/WACO legislative priority bill, **SB 5014**, modifying administrative provisions, was heard by the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee on Monday. The treasurers attended the hearing prior to commencing their meeting. Testifying on behalf of the group were Treasurers' Legislative Chair Rose Bowman, Lewis County Treasurer; Kathy Turnbull, San Juan County Treasurer; and Phil Sanders, King County Property Tax Supervisor. It was agreed that Section 4 of the bill, modifying requirements for governmental agencies regarding unclaimed property, will be removed, per an agreement with the Department of Revenue (DOR). Other clarifications will be made as well.

Following the hearing, the group met back at the Washington Counties Building. First on the agenda was Stuart Thronson, Department of Revenue, who explained the automated system for the electronic processing of the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), which will be a tremendous help for treasurers, assessors, auditors and DOR. DOR has developed a REET Web Site service that will allow for the electronic transmission of REET affidavit data from counties to DOR,

eliminating the need to send paper affidavits to the department. They are also providing the specifications and requirements for counties to build their own automated REET collection process. The next step for the counties is to gain the funding necessary for implementation of the system. Two bills have been introduced in the Legislature that would require a \$10 fee on all Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) transactions for the purposes of developing, implementing and maintaining electronic technology for processing REET. **HB 1240** and **SB 5281** states that all revenues will be distributed one-half equally to counties and one-half based on a population formula, so that even small counties can implement the system. **HB 1240** will be heard in the House Local Government Committee on Thursday, February 3, at 1:30 p.m.

During the rest of the meeting, other legislation impacting county treasurers was discussed. Senator Jim Kastama, chair of the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee, joined the treasurers for lunch and stated his intention to pass **SB 5014** out of his committee with amendments that will be provided by the treasurers.

Treasurers spent Monday afternoon visiting with their legislators, met briefly on Tuesday to report back to colleagues on the results of those visits, and headed back up on the hill for more appointments.

The House version of the Treasurers' administrative bill, **HB 1158**, was heard by the House Local Government Committee on Thursday. Rose Bowman and Phil Sanders appeared before the committee to describe the bill, as well as amendments they are

The Courthouse Journal

Published weekly (during Legislative Session) and Bi-weekly (other than Session) by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC).

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Wednesday.

Direct inquiries and correspondence to *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1131 or www.wacounties.org.

WACO STAFF

Phone (360) 753-7319 / Fax (360) 664-2812

Debbie Wilke, Executive Director
Michelle Hagen, Deputy Director
Christina Bridston, Programs Coordinator
Brenda Bamford, Financial Operations Mgr
Kathie Houts, Administrative Assistant

WSAC STAFF

Phone (360) 753-1886 / Fax (360) 753-2842

Bill Vogler, Executive Director
Paul Parker, Assistant Executive Director
Maureen Morris,
Urban Counties Deputy Director
Sophia Byrd, Policy Director-
Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice
Jean Wessman, Policy Director-
Human Services, Juvenile Justice & Housing
Scott Merriman, Policy Director-
Transportation & Land Use
Vicki Kirkpatrick, Policy Director-
Public Health & WSALPHO Administrator
Tom King, Research Associate
Jim Potts, Coordinator-Housing Outreach
Tom Robinson, Coordinator-Timber
Trina Bannister,
Finance & Administration Director
Ginni Peppert,
Events Planner & Administrative Assistant
Barbara Warden,
Business & Administrative Assistant
Tom Jensen, Technology Project Manager

CPO PROGRAM

Julie Kaufman,
Certified Public Official Coordinator

proposing. Representatives of the Association of Washington Business and the Washington Water Policy Alliance signed in with concerns about Section 6 of the bill, which transfers the responsibility for processing the transfer of water rights, separate from real property, from the counties to DOR. AWB's position is that water rights are property rights, they should be treated the same as real property and should stay at the county level. AWB will work with the treasurers on this issue and if an agreement can't be made, the section will be pulled from the bill. **HB 1158** and its companion bill **SB 5014** will be the vehicles for another good government issue.

It had been pointed out in the Senate hearing on **SB 5014** that the

statute forgiving interest and penalties on property taxes to military personnel in "Operation Enduring Freedom" would sunset in April. The treasurers would like to extend that privilege and it will be incorporated into both bills. Language will be broader and make it clear that anyone serving in the military in an officially declared conflict will be exempt from interest and penalties on overdue property taxes.

Merriman Leaves WSAC for Governor's office

Scott Merriman, WSAC's Policy Director for Transportation and Land Use, has been offered a position in Governor Gregoire's administration as the Government Relations Director for the Office of Financial Management, which he has accepted effective after January 28, 2005.

Merriman has been an outstanding member of the county team and particularly effective in advocating for counties before the Legislature and state agencies. He has been tireless in helping develop positions with many of our partners and other stakeholders. He was instrumental in getting contentious issues such as growth management and transportation funding moving with cities, business and the environmental community.

Merriman was the lead lobbyist in the passage of **SB 5659**, which authorized a new 3/10th percent voter approved local option sales tax and an increase in the property tax levy above the one percent limit. Three counties have now implemented this new revenue source with more considering it.

WSAC was well served by Scott and we will miss him very much. We wish him well in his new job.

WSAC expects to have to cover the vacancy by next week and we will let everyone know who will be covering the policy areas that Scott previously took care of.

NOTE: Legislative Committee schedules and agendas can be found at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

Budget, Finance and Taxes

Assessors' Bills of Interest Heard This Week

On Monday, January 24, the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee heard **SB 5136** which would allow \$.25 of a fire district's levy to be outside the \$5.90 aggregate limit. The amount would still be subject to the Constitutional one percent limit. If the combined rates exceed the \$10 per \$1,000 of market value, this levy would be reduced first. The companion bill **HB 1106** was heard in the House Local Government Committee on Thursday, January 27.

On Wednesday, the Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education Committee again took up the issue of providing for a simple majority of voters voting to authorize school district levies and bonds (**SB 5144** & **SJR 8202**). That same day, the Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee heard **SB 5027**, improving real estate excise tax procedures for taxation of water right transfers. Currently this bill would have the Department of Ecology reporting to the Department of Revenue, but we are making sure they don't insert the county assessors into this equation as they have in the past.

The House Local Government Committee, on Wednesday, heard **HB 1195** revising rules for vesting of short subdivisions. This would establish that for a period of five years following the approval of the short subdivision, the statutes, ordinances, and regulations in effect at the time of its approval shall govern the development of the short subdivision. It also exempts from the five year vesting limitation those short subdivisions zoned for single-family homes and which receive

short plat approval on or before the effective date of the bill. On Thursday the same committee heard a number of annexation issues including **HB 1153** - Equalizing the costs of providing municipal services to newly annexed areas and **HB 1229** - revising provisions relating to annexation of territory of certain cities by water-sewer districts. Also on Thursday, the House Finance Committee heard **HB 1299** which would repeal outdated and unused tax preferences. These are tax preferences for which no taxpayers have claimed relief in recent years, and that appear to be outdated or unnecessary.

Assessors' Priority Bills Receive Bill Numbers This Week

Two WACO priority bills and a WSACA (Washington State Association of County Assessors) priority bill were introduced with bill numbers this week. The WACO priority requiring a six-year review of property tax exemptions, which is also a priority for the Tri-Association, is **HB 1501**. The companion bill in the Senate is **SB 5032**. Another WACO priority bill, **HB 1502**, would reinstitute the destroyed property statute that sunsetted in 2004. It would also require that in order to receive the abatement, a property would have to be involuntarily destroyed. The companion bill in the Senate is **SB 5026**.

The WSACA priority bill introduced this week is **SB 5465**. This bill would change the calculation of compensating tax on the farm & agriculture classification of the open space laws. The compensating tax would go from

seven to three years for those who have been in the program for at least ten years. It would also eliminate the twenty percent penalty for all classifications. **Please contact your legislators for their support on these bills.**

Two Tax Bill Move Out of Committee

HB 1069, Representative McIntire's bill requiring audits of all tax preferences (exemptions, exclusions, deductions, credits, deferrals, and preferential rate) moved out of the House Finance Committee on Wednesday, January 26. The "do pass" recommendation vote was 5 yeas, 3 nays. The bill would create a citizen commission to develop a schedule for this review and would require all preferences, except those required by constitutional law or determined to be a critical part of the structure of the tax system, once every ten years. The bill additionally requires the Joint Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) to conduct the actual reviews of tax preferences, according to criteria set in the bill with an annual report to the Legislature on the reviewed tax preferences. The bill has a multiple agency (JLARC, Revenue, State Auditor, and Employment Security) fiscal note of \$742,798.

Also on Wednesday, **HB 1048** passed out of the House Local Government Committee. The bill, sponsored by Representative Linville, extends the deadline from November 15 until November 30 for all cities, public agencies, public officials, and other local governmental entities within a county to submit their estimated property tax revenues and/or budget for the following year. The "do

Budget, Finance, and Taxes (continued)

pass" recommendation was unanimous.

Historic County Courthouse Grants Proposed

The Senate Government Operations Committee will hold the first public hearing on creating a capital grant program for Washington's historic county courthouses on Tuesday, February 1, at 10:00 a.m. **HB 1352**, sponsored by Representative Lynn Kessler (D-Grays harbor County) and **SB 5331**, sponsored by Senator Mark Doumit (D-Wahkiakum County) seek a \$20 million capital appropriation to provide matching grants administered by the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation to help counties pay for historic preservation work in courthouse restoration and improvement projects.

After conducting a survey that identified nearly \$95 million in needed improvements to Washington historic courthouses, half of which is preservation work. The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation has taken the lead in this effort, with assistance from WSAC.

Electronic Payment of Utility Bills

PSHB 1009, allowing electronic payment of utility bills, was passed out of the House Technology, Energy and Communications Committee Thursday, with amendments. Counties, cities and others had concerns about the bill, some of which have been addressed in the amendments. The substitute bill adds a definition of electronic payment option, clarifying that this

means an Internet-based method of payment that allows a customer, at the time of payment, to access an Internet webpage and transmit text or data controlling the amount of the payment, the date of payment, and the account from which the payment will be made. In addition, it changes the date by which utility providers must offer an electronic payment option to July 1, 2008, from July 1, 2005. Amendments passed provide that additional fees or costs charged to the customer may not exceed the actual cost of providing an electronic payment option, and exempts utilities with less than 5,000 customer accounts from the requirements.

Budget, Finance and Taxes (continued)

Schedules are subject to change- PLEASE check this link <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.htm>

JAC = John A. Cherberg Bldg / JLOB = John L. O'Brien Bldg

Bill #	Committee	Description	Time	<i>Location</i> <i>Bldg/Room</i>	Date
<u>4202</u>	House Education	Amending the Constitution to provide for a simple majority of voters voting to authorize a school levy.	1:30 pm	JLOB B	1/31/05
<u>1484</u>	House Education	Authorizing voter approved regular property tax levies for school purposes	1:30 pm	JLOB B	1/31/05
<u>SB 5331</u>	Senate Government operations and Elections	Establishing an Historic County Courthouse Grant Program	10:00 am	JAC SHR 2	02/01/05
<u>Work Session</u>	House Finance	What spending and tax limits are necessary for a bipartisan discussion of tax reform?	10:00 am	JLOB C	2/01/05
<u>Public Hearing</u>	House Finance	Comments: what spending and tax limits are necessary for a bipartisan discussion of tax reform?	10:00 am	JLOB C	2/01/05
<u>5298</u>	Senate Government Operations & Elections	Exempting qualified historic property from the state property tax	10:00 am	JAC 2	2/1/05
<u>5274</u>	Labor, Commerce, Research & Development	Establishing a trainee real estate appraiser classification	10:00 am	JAC 4	2/01/05
<u>5325</u>	International Trade & Economic Development	Promoting economic development and community revitalization (TIF)	3:30 pm	JAC 3	2/01/05
<u>1195</u>	Local Government	Revising rules for vesting of short subdivisions	8:00 am	JLOB E	2/02/05
<u>1413</u>	Capital Budget	Expanding the criteria for habitat conservation programs.	8:00 am	JLOB A	2/02/05
<u>5118</u>	Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation	Concerning habitat conservation programs	8:00 am	JAC 2	2/02/05
<u>5396</u>	Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation	Expanding the criteria for habitat conservation programs	8:00 am	JAC 2	2/02/05
<u>1239</u>	House Finance	Changing the leasehold excise tax exemption for certain historical property.	1:30 pm	JLOB C	2/02/05
<u>5333</u>	Government Operations & Elections	Modifying requirements for voter-approved property tax levies.	8:00 am	JAC 2	2/03/05
<u>HB 1240</u>	House Local Government	Funding the Development of an Automated System to Process Real Estate Excise Taxes	1:30 p.m.	HHRE	2/03/05

Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

Indigent Defense Legislation Introduced

Bills to help counties pay for and improve the quality of their trial court criminal public defender services are now introduced in both the Senate and the House. This legislation is identified as a WSAC priority and is also supported by WACO and the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) through the Tri-Association agreement.

It is important now for county commissioners to call or e-mail a thank-you to their legislators who signed on as original sponsors, and to actively encourage other legislators to sign on.

Original sponsors of **HB 1542** are: Pat Lantz, Bill Hinkle, Sherry Appleton, Jay Rodne, John Lovick, Dan Newhouse, David Buri. Original sponsors of **SB 5531** are: Adam Kline, Stephen Johnson, Karen Fraser, Val Stevens, Mary Margaret Haugen, Dan Swecker, and Debbie Regala.

If funded in the budget, the two companion bills would provide \$25 million in the next biennium in direct funding to all counties and a grant program to a few cities to help relieve the crisis in trial level public defense services. The first year of proposed funding is to be distributed upon receipt of current local expenditure and caseload information to the state Office of Public Defense (OPD). The second year of funding is contingent upon demonstrating to OPD improvements in public defense services.

A proposed distribution plan would provide 10 percent of the funding for a city grant program and would distribute the remaining 90

percent to counties based on a formula that provides each county with a base minimum that is increased based on population and felony filings.

The bills are part of a response to recent reports that have highlighted significant problems with some existing public defender services: The "Report of the WSBA Blue Ribbon Panel on Criminal Defense"; the Washington Juvenile Justice Assessment Project report; the ACLU publication *The Unfulfilled Promise of Gideon*; and a *Seattle Times* series profiling problems in several counties and cities across the state all agreed that inadequate funding for public defense has contributed to costly appeals and reversals, civil rights lawsuits alleging that counties are failing to meet constitutional requirements, inefficiencies in court proceedings, and loss of public trust and confidence in the criminal justice system.

DNA Bill Crosses Over to Senate

SHB 1014, a bill authorizing the court to order preservation of biological evidence for specified periods of time, was heard last Friday in the House and has already been scheduled for a first reading in the Senate. That completes 50% of the trip to the Governor's desk for signature. Prosecutors spoke in support of the bill but the House Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee was advised that in order to "preserve" and not just store, the facilities and training of local governments required to do this should not be overlooked when federal funding becomes available. Funding of the WSP Crime Lab was

also noted as essential. The substitute bill requires the court to adopt rules and that is where the input of local courts and personnel play a vital role.

SB 5242, harmonizing penalties for inmates possessing weapons, was heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday. Island County Sheriff Mike Hawley and Pacific County Jail Inspector Steve Sultemeier joined prime sponsor Senator Mark Doumit in support of a bill to change the prohibition of a "deadly weapon" in a county jail to prohibiting possession of any weapon. "Deadly weapon" required that in prosecuting an offense, that intent to harm be proven. **SB 5242** was made part of the WACO package by action of the WACO Legislative Committee.

Gun Bills Everywhere

The Senate Judiciary Committee filled two rooms to overflowing with gun control and gun-rights interests this week as they heard bills regulating firearms on the Capital Campus (**SB 5344**); **SB 5131**, a bill dealing with possession of firearms by persons not guilty by reason of insanity; **SB 5343**, regulating sale at gun shows; **SB 5342**, safe storage of firearms; and drafts of bills banning assault weapons and 50 caliber weapons, without special permits. The ban bills would prove the most troublesome to sheriffs since sheriffs and police would be required to conduct on-site inspections annually to determine if persons licensed to possess those weapons were storing them safely. The bills allow a fee, but one that was only sufficient to meet the statutory provisions. Given the crowd was about 50% in support

Courts, Public Safety, Law and Justice (continued)

and 50% against the controversial measures we expect they might sink of their own weight.

No More Wafer and Wax

HB 1471, regarding the authentications of documents, takes two 1881 statutes to task to change the way the seal is affixed when documents are certified as "full, true and correct copies of the original on file" and allows them to be transmitted by means other than telegraph. **HB 1471** has been referred to House Judiciary and is waiting for a hearing. **HB 1471** is a priority of the Washington State Association of County Clerks (WSACC) and WACO.

Felon Discharge Option

SB 5339, relating to recidivism reduction through discharge of convicted felons, allows the court to issue a certificate of discharge if an offender has completed all the terms of his or her sentence and is making reasonable efforts to pay the financial obligations according to his/her ability to pay. The court retains jurisdiction and the clerk retains authority to collect the obligation. The court is not required to grant the motion. Senator Hargrove, Chair of the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee where the **SB 5993** was heard today suggested a five year sunset on the bill so that its impact on recidivism can be determined. The crime victims' lobby asked that guidelines be established for the court to use in weighing a request for discharge. The American Civil Liberties Union supported **SB 5993** but noted that there are "too many problems" associated with seeking a

discharge.

Save the PSEA Account

HB 1046 was heard by the House Appropriations Committee on Monday with no one speaking in support of eliminating the fund where approximately 46% of court fines, fees and forfeitures go now and directing them to the state general fund. In the interest of crime victims, the courts and the criminal justice training commission, the committee was asked to delay doing away with the Public Safety and Education Account (PSEA) until provision could be made to guarantee adequate funding for them. It was suggested that the account be returned to its original state where it intended to simplify accounting for a myriad of assessments and fund entities that provide services to the counties who collect the monies locally. Originally PSEA was intended to develop court computer systems, and train law enforcement. A share of the PSEA also supports the Washington State Patrol (WSP) Crime Laboratory.

Other Bills of Interest to Sheriffs

Mason County Sheriff Steve Whybark testified in favor of **SB 5166**, a bill to fund a study of electronic monitoring systems by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) and provides \$40,000 to accomplish it. In Senate Judiciary on Tuesday also, Grays Harbor County Sheriff Mike Whelan supported a **SB 5282** that would allow counties the option of giving additional earned release to prisoners in county jails. WAPA has

submitted an amendment to make it clear that a county jail can adopt an earned release program that exceeds one third of the total sentence for certain offenders of up to 50% but is not required to do so.

SB 5035, a bill eliminating the forensic pathologist specialist program through the University of Washington and allowing the Forensic Investigations Council to establish a state forensic pathologist was heard in the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee on Wednesday. Mason County Coroner Martha Reed testified for the Council stating that counties around the state could be better served by doing away with a floundering program and investigating better ways of providing forensic pathology in the investigation of deaths. The University was basically a pass-through and has no objections to the change.

Prescription Medication in County Jails

Thanks are due all around to House Speaker Frank Chopp for the great idea and Representative Eileen Cody for inclusion of local governments in her **HB 1219**, a prescription drug purchasing consortium. **HB 1219** directs the Health Care Authority to establish a prescription drug purchasing consortium. The consortium may include, on a voluntary basis, local government, private entities, labor organizations, and individuals without insurance, or who are underinsured for prescription drug coverage. The Health Care Authority will impose fees on participants to cover the

Courts, Public Safety, Law and Justice (continued)

administrative expense of operating the purchasing consortium. An eleven member advisory committee is created to provide input on the implementation of the purchasing consortium. **HB 1219** appears to be one solution to the dramatic costs in providing medications in local jails.

The Non-partisan Sheriff Is Back

SB 5464, a bill to make the office of county sheriff non-partisan, is back again. According to Thurston County Sheriff Gary Edwards, the concept is at least 18 years old and he can attest to that. **SB 5464** is being

sponsored by Senators Rasmussen, Brandland, Kline, Spanel, Haugen, Rockefeller, and Shin.

In the past, WASPC has supported this concept while WACO has no position.

Schedules are subject to change- PLEASE check this link <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.htm>

JAC = John A. Cherberg Bldg / JLOB = John L. O'Brien Bldg

Bill #	Committee	Description	Time	Location Bldg/Room	Date
HB 1205	House Criminal Justice and Corrections	Decriminalizing "fine-only" misdemeanors	1:30 p.m.	JLOB - E	2/1/05
HB 1236	House Criminal Justice and Corrections	Decriminalizing "fine only" criminal statutes	TBA		
HB 1338	House Criminal Justice and Corrections	Adding kidnapping to sex offender website	TBA		
HB 1231	House Criminal Justice and Corrections	Evaluations for offenders under SSOSA	8:00 a.m.		2/3/05
HB 1186	House Criminal Justice and Corrections	Making third anti-harassment violation a class C	1:30 p.m.		2/4/05
HB 1294	House Judiciary	Standards for anti-harassment hearings	10:00 a.	JLOB - B	2/1/05
HB 1359	House Judiciary	Revising the interest on legal financial obligations	1:30 p.m.		2/2/05
HB 1207	House Judiciary	Privileges communication between spouses	8:00 a.m.		2/4/05
HB 1314	House Juv Justice and Family Law	Creating the domestic violence account with \$10 on marriage licenses and court filings	8:00 a.m.	JLOB - E	2/4/05
TBA	Senate Human Services and Corrections	Agendas to be announced for Monday, Tuesday and Thursday	TBA		
SB 5404	Senate Judiciary	Paying for actions for damages against law enforcement officers	3:30 p.m.	JAC 1	2/2/05

Elections, Licensing and Recording

Elections Legislation

Wednesday, the House State Government took up **HB 1025**, enhancing integrity of voting systems, and concerns in several areas were expressed by both Snohomish County Auditor Bob Terwilliger and by staff of the Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS). Snohomish and Yakima Counties are the only counties thus far with Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines and both counties would incur large costs in modifying their DREs to provide a paper record as required in the bill. Terwilliger reported that he has 1,000 DRE voting machines and that it would cost \$500 each to modify. The bill also requires that an audit process be conducted of the machines within one day after the election, a timeframe that Terwilliger said would be impossible to conduct with absentee and provisional ballots to take care of. He suggested that language be changed to say the audit should be done during time of certification.

Terwilliger also testified on **HB 1132**, allowing more candidates to file with the secretary of state. The measure provides that candidates for the legislature, the court of appeals, or superior court seeks office in a district that includes voters in two or more counties, the declaration of candidacy must be filed with OSOS. If the candidate seeks office in a district including just one county, the candidacy can be filed with either the OSOS or the county auditor. Terwilliger stated that there would not be a problem with that as long as the filing fee paid to the OSOS would come back to the county.

In the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee hearing, Thursday, Pierce County

Auditor Pat McCarthy, Auditors' Legislative co-chair, and Snohomish County Auditor Bob Terwilliger both addressed **PSSB 5219**, which changes primary dates and associated election procedures. The bill moves the primary date back to the third Tuesday in August, a date supported by the county auditors. The candidate filing period is moved to the third Monday in June and continues through the following Friday, among other changes, most notably moving the canvassing date from 15 to 20 days after the general election.

McCarthy suggested several ideas she would like to see incorporated in the bill, one of which was to consolidate special election dates now held in February, March, April and May to maybe just February and April. Terwilliger stated clearly that the best way to approach elections reform in this state is to go to vote by mail (VBM) for everyone, just as they do in Oregon. He said it is time to begin the discussion – if the legislature wants uniformity and to cut down on errors, VBM would accomplish that.

Also heard in committee were **SB 5499**, clarifying and standardizing various election procedures, and calls for “uniformity” among all counties. McCarthy mentioned that there is no reference to third parties collecting affidavits from voters. Auditors do not want third parties included. In addition, she said it is not realistic to have uniform ballots since the counties have different vendors and different systems.

When the committee heard **SB 5395**, requiring voting devices to produce paper records, Terwilliger cited what the costs would be to

Snohomish County as he did when testifying the previous day on **HB 1025**.

Terwilliger mentioned that he and OSOS elections director Nick Handy would be traveling to Washington, D.C., next week, for a meeting of the Elections Assistance Commission, created in the Help America Vote Act, and as members they would ensure that interested legislators would receive information about these meetings.

Elections, Licensing and Recording (continued)

Schedules are subject to change- PLEASE check this link <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.htm>

JAC = John A. Cherberg Bldg / JLOB = John L. O'Brien Bldg

Bill #	Committee	Description	Time	<u>Location</u> Bldg/Room	Date
<u>HB 1335</u>	House Local Government	Providing Home Rule Charter Cities the Ability to Choose Their Election System	1:30 p.m.	HHRE	1/31/05
<u>HB 1386</u>	House Local Government	WACO Priority – Increasing the surcharge for the preservation of historical documents	1:30 p.m.	House Hearing Room E, John L. O'Brien Building	1/31/05
<u>HB 1314</u>	House Juvenile Justice & Family Law	Creating the domestic violence prevention account	8:00 a.m.	House Hearing Room E, John L. O'Brien Building	2/4/05
<u>HB 1350</u>	House State Government Operations & Accountability	Regarding disclosure of Public Records	10:00 a.m.	House Hearing Room D, John L. O'Brien Building	2/1/05
<u>SB 5458</u>	Senate Government Operation & Elections	WACO Priority – Increasing the surcharge for the preservation of historical documents	10:00 a.m.	Senate Hearing Room 2, J. A. Cherberg Building	1/31/05
<u>SB 5204</u>	Senate Judiciary	Modifying the chattel lien process	3:30 p.m.	Senate Hearing Room 1, J.A. Cherberg Bldg	2/1/05

Environment, Land Use and Resources

Schedules are subject to change- PLEASE check this link <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.htm>

JAC = John A. Cherberg Bldg / JLOB = John L. O'Brien Bldg

Bill #	Committee	Description	Time	<u>Location</u> Bldg/Room	Date
<u>HB 1413</u>	House Capital Budget	Revising the criteria for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program purchases	8:00 am	JLOB HHR A	02/01/05
<u>SB 5396</u>	Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation	Revising the criteria for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program purchases	8:00 am	JAC SHR 2	02/01/05

Public Health and Human Services

Schedules are subject to change- PLEASE check this link <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.htm>

JAC = John A. Cherberg Bldg / JLOB = John L. O'Brien Bldg

Bill #	Committee	Description	Time	<u>Location</u> Bldg/Room	Date
<u>Work Session</u>	Senate Government Operations & Elections	Work session on Election Reform with Secretary of State and Elections Division. Discussion of draft legislation	10:00 am	JAC-1	01/17/05
<u>Work Session</u>	House State Government Operations & Accountability Committee				
<u>Work Session</u>	House Appropriations	Work Session on Medicaid Long-Term Care DSHS Proposal to expand drug and alcohol treatment services.	3:30	HHR A	2/2/05
<u>HB 1107</u>	House Children & Family Services	Providing for early intervention services for children with disabilities.	1:30	HHR D	1/31/05
<u>HB 1391</u>	House Children & Family Services	Establishing a work group to stud services and programs for children.	8:00	HHR D	2/2/05
<u>Work Session</u>	House Children & Family Services	Children's Mental Health	1:30	HHR D	2/3/05
<u>HB 1410</u>	House Commerce & Labor	Revising provisions relating to disbursement of liquor revolving fund moneys for the purpose of funding alcohol education programs.	8:00	HHR C	2/2/05
<u>HB 1365</u>	House Health Care	Concerning home and community services' case management responsibilities.	8:00	HHR A	2/3/05
<u>HB 1235</u>	House Housing	Requiring consultation between counties, cities, and towns before siting homeless camps.	10:00	HHR D	2/3/05
<u>HB 1200</u>	House Judiciary	Establishing standardized chemical dependency assessment protocols.	8:00	HHR B	2/4/05
<u>HB 1187</u>	House Juvenile Justice and Family Law	Eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for youthful offenders tried as adults	10:00	HHR E	21/05
<u>HB 1279</u>	House Juvenile Justice and Family Law	Revising provisions relating to public access to child in need of services and at-risk youth hearings	1:30	HHR E	2/2/05
<u>HB 1483</u>	House Juvenile Justice and Family Law	Creating an "Investing in youth program"	1:30	HHR E	2/2/05
<u>HB 1314</u>	House Juvenile Justice and Family Law	Creating the domestic violence prevention account.	8:00	HHR E	2/4/05
<u>SB 5141</u>	Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education	Providing for early intervention services for children with disabilities.	8:00	SHR 1	2/2/05
<u>Work Session</u>	Senate Health & Long-Term Care	Medicaid and Medicare Modernization Act	8:00	SHR 4	2/2/05
<u>SB 5380</u>	Senate Labor, Commerce, Research and Development	Revising provisions relating to disbursement of liquor revolving fund moneys for the purpose of funding alcohol education programs.	10:00	SHR 4	2/1/05
<u>Work Session</u>	Senate Ways and Means	TANF/GA-U	1:30	SHR \$	2/3/05

Boards and Commissions

TIB Seeks Commissioner or Councilmember from Large County

There is an opening for a commissioner/councilmember from a county over 125,000 population. The board is composed of six city members, six county, two WSDOT officials, a governor appointee from a state agency, a private sector representative, a member representing special needs transportation, a non-motorized representative, a member representing the ports, and two representatives from transit.

The local agency, private sector, port, non-motorized, special needs,

and transit board members are appointed by the WSDOT Secretary to four-year staggered terms. The WSDOT officials are also appointed by the WSDOT Secretary. The County Road Administration Board Director is one of the county members and is an ex-officio member. The governor appointee position also has a four-year term. The Transportation Improvement Board meets monthly at various locations throughout the state. WSAC makes a recommendation to the WSDOT Secretary.

Courthouse Ramblings

Jefferson County Commissioners have appointed **Ruth Gordon** to the unexpired term of Marianne Walters, who retired at the end of December. Since the early 1980's, Gordon has been in private practice as a counselor and writes and manages an online web site serving mothers and their families. She has also led the management team of a public school in South Seattle, as well as having served on the executive boards of non-profit organizations. Ruth plans to run for the unexpired term for clerk this fall.

* * * * *

Last week, we reported that **Jerry Pettit** has been named the new Kittitas County Auditor, effective February 1. We now know more about him. He was a local state

auditor for 10 years and then spent 15 years in management in the private, governmental and non-profit areas. He is currently the finance manager for Ellensburg Chevrolet.

* * * * *

Lewis County Commissioners have appointed sheriff's Lt. **Steve Mansfield** as the new sheriff, replacing John McCroskey who has resigned to take a position in the private sector. Mansfield will be sworn in on Monday. He has been with the sheriff's department for 20 years.

Training and Upcoming Events

Medicolegal Death Investigator Training

This course is available to death investigators including prosecutor, coroner, medical examiner and law enforcement personnel. This course will assist the investigator in preparing for the National Certification examination process.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this course is to provide basic training in the field of medicolegal death investigation. This course is intended for individuals who are employed as investigators for medical examiner, coroner, or prosecutor/coroner offices, and for law enforcement personnel who support these agencies by functioning as medicolegal death investigators. The course utilizes the training text *Medicolegal Death Investigator*, by S.C. Clark, et. al and covers the eight general areas outlined in the text. Those areas include: Interacting with Federal, State, and Local Agencies; Communicating; Interacting with Families; Investigation Deaths, Identifying and Preserving Evidence; Maintaining Ethical and Legal Responsibilities; Demonstrating Scientific Knowledge; and Coping with Job-Related Stress. The concepts presented will provide a basic background to investigate most all deaths. In addition, there will be discussion of the investigation of sudden unexplained infant deaths. The course includes both didactic and practical sessions. This training is intended to prepare the medicolegal death investigator to apply for registry certification.

Registry certification for medicolegal death investigators can be obtained through The American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators, Inc. (<http://www.slu.edu/organizations/admdi/>). This is the basic level of certification. Investigators who have demonstrated the skills to successfully complete registry certification and meet the board's requirements may apply for a higher level of certification in the future when this becomes available. The purpose of certification is to demonstrate that the investigator has the necessary knowledge and skills to perform medicolegal death investigations.

Space is limited. Priority will be given to Coroner, Medical Examiner, and Prosecutor/Coroner personnel. All others wishing to register will be allowed as space provides. *Attendees must attend the entire session to receive training credit.*

Cost: Training Course is being provided by W.A.C.M.E. and no fee is required.

Registration: Contact Kathie with WACO, send to 206 Tenth Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501.
Email: khouts@wacounties.org, Phone: 360-753-7319, Fax: 360-664-2812

Training Date: March 7 – 11, 2005

Training Location: Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC), Building 6.
3060 Willamette Drive NE, Lacey, Washington

Lodging: A block of non-smoking rooms is being held at the *King Oscar Motel, 8200 Quinault Way NE, Lacey, Washington, until February 14. Government rates: \$58 plus tax for a queen, \$68 plus tax for a double. Registrants are required to make their own reservations. Reservations Phone: (360) 438-3333 or fax (360) 438-1703 or 1-888-254-KING (1-888-254-5464).

*The King Oscar is located at EXIT 111 of I-5 and is the closest to the WASPC Bldg. You may stay elsewhere but reimbursement (for those eligible and over 50 miles away) is based on the rates stated.

Questions: Contact WACO at 206 Tenth Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501.
Email: khouts@wacounties.org, Phone: 360-753-7319, Fax: 360-664-2812

Training and Upcoming Events (Continued)

PREREGISTRATION:

Preregistration is required.

Please complete this application and send to:

WACO, Attn: Kathie Houts, 206 10th Ave SE, Olympia WA 98501
k.houts@wacounties.org
Phone: (360) 753-7319
Fax: (360) 664-2812

GENERAL COURSE APPLICATION

Applicants Name (Last)		(First)	(Middle)
Title/Rank:	Social Security Number:		Agency:
Agency Mailing Address:	(Street or PO Box)	(City)	(State) (Zip)
Agency Phone:	Agency Fax:	Email Address:	

Additional Applicants

Applicants Name:	Rank:	Social Security Number:

NOTE FOR PROSECUTORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT: PLEASE INDICATE ON THIS FORM IF YOU ARE A DEPUTY CORONER.

Calendar of Events

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Information</i>
For your convenience training and workshops are bolded.			
<u>FEBRUARY 2005</u>			
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Legislative Meeting	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	February 1-3	(360) 740-1392
WSAC Board of Directors Meeting	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	February 10	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Rally Day	TBD, Olympia	February 10	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	February 11	(360) 753-1886
<u>MARCH 2005</u>			
Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) Legislative Conference	Marriott Wardman, Washington D.C.	March 2 - 3	www.pria.us
WSAC Rural Issues Sub-committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	March 3	(360) 753-1886
Urban County Caucus	Mercato Ristorante', Olympia	March 3	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	March 4	(360) 753-1886
National Association of Clerks, Recorders and Elections Officials (NACRC) Legislative Conference (with NACo)	Marriott Wardman, Washington, D.C.	March 4 - 6	www.nacrc.org
National Association of Counties' (NACo) Annual Legislative Conference	Marriot Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC	March 4 - 8	www.naco.org
"Your Path to the Marketplace"	Pend Oreille County	Mar. 5 – Apr. 16	(509) 447-2401
WA Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners' (WACME) Medicolegal Training	WA State Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Bldg, Lacey	March 7-11	(360) 753-7319
Washington State Association of County Auditors' Recording Conference	Red Lion Hotel, Wenatchee	March 15-16	(360) 753-7319
Assn of County Human Services	Skamania County	March 16 - 18	(360) 753-1886
Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF)/Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) Boards and Insurance Advisory Committee	Red Lion at the Park, Spokane	March 17	(360) 586-0466
WCAA Annual Conference – Winter	Enzian Inn, Leavenworth	March 23 – 25	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Rural Issues Sub-committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	March 24	(360) 753-1886

Calendar of Events (continued)

Urban County Caucus	Mercato Ristorante', Olympia	March 24	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	March 25	(360) 753-1886
<i>APRIL 2005</i>			
WACO Board of Trustees' Meeting	Washington Counties Building, Olympia	April 6-7	
16 th Annual National County Government Week		April 10-16	
Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF)/Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) Ace Committee (HR & Payroll Only)	Yakima Convention Center	April 13	(360) 586-0466
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Risk Managers Roundtable, 1- 5 pm	Best Western CottonTree Convention Center, Mt. Vernon	April 13	(360) 586-7447
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Spring Board Meeting, 9 am	Best Western CottonTree Convention Center, Mt. Vernon	April 14	(360) 586-7447
WSAC Rural Issues Sub-committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	April 14	(360) 753-1886
Urban County Caucus	Mercato Ristorante', Olympia	April 14	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	April 15	(360) 753-1886
Washington STATE	Sine Die - 59th Legislative Session Ends	April 25	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm